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# SCHOOL at the LEGISLATURE

Putting Life into Learning



Report Card 2008-09







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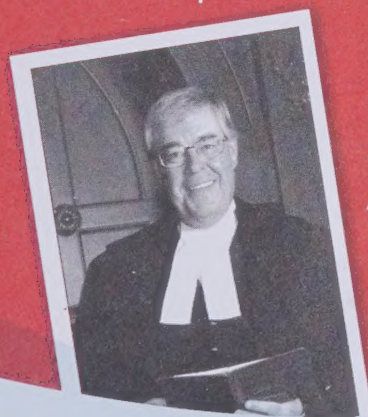
## SPEAKER'S MESSAGE

I am proud to report that the School at the Legislature program continues to flourish. This past year 1,200 students, teachers and volunteers, many from outside the Edmonton area, had the opportunity to experience Alberta's parliamentary democratic process through this program. When you compare this to the 92 participants we had in our inaugural year, it is an impressive testament to the dedication of all involved.

Not only has this provided students with a tremendous learning opportunity, but the School at the Legislature program is a powerful tool in professional development for teachers who are able to teach in a real-life environment. This program is a true reflection of the Chinese proverb, "Tell me and I'll forget; **show me** and I may **remember**; involve me and I'll **understand**."

Just as the program has grown so has our sponsorship support. This support has enabled us to offer this valuable learning opportunity to students from all over the province. Without the co-operation of Legislative Assembly Office staff and support from community sponsors none of this would have been possible.

As you take a look at the past year's accomplishments and the program's progress to date, you will understand why this program continues to be successful and the meaningful learning opportunities that are open for all to discover.



*Ken Kowalski*

*The Honourable Ken Kowalski  
MLA, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta*





# PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

"I find it quite amazing how the experience makes the process of democracy come alive. We had an amazing week. Thank you so much!"

~ Teacher, Meyonohk School







## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To provide students with a memorable and fun-filled learning experience of Alberta's parliamentary democratic process
- To facilitate interdisciplinary learning experiences at the Legislature that complement the Alberta curriculum
- To convey to the educational community and the public that the Legislature and the parliamentary process belong to them
- To provide Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislature staff an opportunity to participate in the learning experience of children

# THE ALABAMA

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

"I learned about the Ombudsman, all the 13 Premiers we've had, all the Lieutenant Governors, about the media, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Clerk and a lot more. I learned too much I can't even fit on the page!"

~ Student, Steinhaver School







## YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2008-09 school year welcomed 33 classes to the School at the Legislature (SATL) program, bringing over 1,200 students, teachers and parent volunteers to the Legislative Assembly. Classes arrived from areas across Alberta, visiting us from Edmonton, Stony Plain, Clyde, Vegreville, Boyle, Spruce Grove, Rimbey, Mundare, Anzac and Jasper.

The Legislature community welcomes all classes by providing dynamic sessions that give students an in-depth, hands-on experience of the parliamentary process. Students, teachers, parent volunteers and Legislative Assembly staff continue to enjoy the connection and find the program a rewarding experience.

The School at the Legislature is strongly supported by our family of community partners, which includes CKUA Radio Network, Priority Printing Ltd., Access, Via Rail Canada and the Rotary Club of Edmonton. These partners provide sponsorship in the form of print and promotional material, television and radio advertisements, \$4,000 towards accommodation and food expenses, program fees for four inner-city schools and a round trip rail ride for one class to attend School at the Legislature. This sponsorship support helps provide a unique and memorable learning experience for all.





# SATL ENROLMENT

"I thought it was cool that we could watch question period. I think you should let every group of students watch that because you get to know about what goes on in the Chamber. Some people may never get to do that otherwise."

~ Student, Westbrook School



## SATL Enrolment

Tables one and two list the schools and the number of participants enrolled in the program. Some schools had multiple classes participate.

Table One: Program Participants

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Years	Classes	Students	Teachers	Volunteers
1998-99	3	74	3	15
1999-00	5	123	6	16
2000-01	7	195	8	26
2001-02	20	502	25	123
2002-03	22	619	30	153
2003-04	29	714	29	310
2004-05	32	780	35	461
2005-06	32	771	35	419
2006-07	33	709	40	498
2007-08	32	686	35	339
2008-09	33	747	35	426



## Table two: Participating Schools

School	Class Numbers	Student Numbers	Area
A.L. Horton School	1	25	Vegreville
Anzac Community School	1	18	Anzac
Belvedere School	1	17	Edmonton
Boyle School	1	24	Boyle
Clara Tyner School	1	29	Edmonton
Coronation School	1	24	Edmonton
Crawford Plains	1	21	Edmonton
Eastwood School	1	22	Edmonton
Ecole Desrochers	1	9	Jasper
Eleanor Hall School	1	16	Clyde
Forest Heights School	1	32	Edmonton
Greystone Centennial School	2	69	Spruce Grove
Jackson Heights School	2	45	Edmonton
Lynnwood School	1	23	Edmonton
Malmo School	1	18	Edmonton
McCauley School	1	17	Edmonton
Meyonohk School	2	47	Edmonton
Muir Lake School	2	34	Stony Plain
Mundare School	1	15	Mundare
Rimbey School	2	46	Rimbey
Satoo Elementary	1	30	Edmonton
Steinhauer School	1	27	Edmonton
Tipaskan School	1	21	Edmonton
Westbrook School	4	98	Edmonton
Windsor Park School	1	20	Edmonton
Total		33	747





## LET'S TALK


"Talking about government and seeing pictures does not help the child relate as much as hands-on experience. Being able to see and understand in a visual way is very valuable."

~ Parent, Muir Lake School

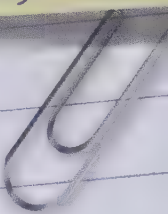


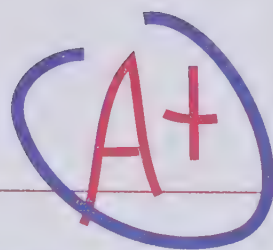
## LET'S TALK

The Legislative Assembly Office of Alberta (LAO) has been actively involved in the SATL program since its pilot project inception in 1998-99. Through the years this innovative program has continued to grow. Teachers are provided the opportunity to move their classrooms into the rich world beyond the school so that learning becomes deeper. Extended experiences at the Legislature site are ideal catalysts for the "habits of mind" that help students to be the creative, curious, thoughtful citizens that our world needs. This site provides a fascinating, educationally rich environment that engages students in exploration and discovery that helps create an awareness and better understanding of the democratic process. Along with student learning this program has been shown to be a powerful tool in professional development for teachers.



Students have opportunities to meet the Members of the Legislative Assembly and book interview sessions with Assembly staff to learn more about specific roles and responsibilities of offices that constitute the legislative community.

- 
- The Lieutenant Governor's Office
  - The Premier's Office
  - The Speaker's Office
  - Government Members
  - Liberal Opposition Members
  - New Democrat Opposition Members



- The Clerk's Office
- The Sergeant-at-Arms' Office
- Clerk Assistant/Director of House Services
- Parliamentary Counsel
- Clerk of Journals/Table Research
- House Services
- Alberta Hansard
- Financial Management and Administrative Services
- Library Services
- Human Resource Services
- Information Technology Services
- Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Press Gallery
- Legislature Officers
  - Ombudsman
  - Chief Electoral Officer
  - Information & Privacy Commissioner
  - Auditor General
  - Ethics Commissioner





# GETTING THE WORD OUT

"The media room is 'News-er-iffic' and the lights are cool. It has loads of cool stuff, and it looks a lot bigger on TV. Who knows how that is done, but hey, the media room is still awesome! We had a great time."

~ Student, Windsor Park School







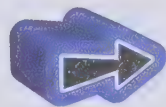
## GETTING THE WORD OUT

The LAO, in co-operation with its community sponsors, promotes the program via mail-outs, workshops, conventions and the Assembly website, advertisements in community newspapers, Alberta Teachers' Association newsletters and radio and television ads.

The School at the Legislature program is also actively promoted at teacher conventions throughout the province, where information and promotional materials are distributed to convention delegates. In 2009 Visitor Services staff promoted the program at the following venues: Calgary City Teachers' Convention, Central East Teachers' Convention, Central Alberta Teachers' Convention, ATA Social Studies Council Conference, Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention, Northeast Teachers' Convention, North Central Teachers' Convention, and Palliser District Teachers' Convention.

An annual two-day teachers' workshop held in August offers teachers an opportunity to meet the staff of the Legislative Assembly, to acquaint themselves with the program, the scheduling process, the site layout and more importantly, to develop a network among fellow teachers. Teachers feel this workshop to be an invaluable source of information.

As members of Inquiring Minds site-based schools, which includes Royal Alberta Museum school, Petro-Canada Zoo School, Edmonton Oilers Ice School, Fort Edmonton Park School, City Hall School, Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium School, Green School at Devonian Botanical Garden and Junior Achievement Business School, the site co-ordinators meet regularly to organize collaborative in-service workshops for teachers interested in site-based school programs. These informative sessions provide prospective teachers an overview of the





programs available, outlining each site's unique features. Over 200 teachers attend the workshops. As interest continues to grow for these site-based programs, new sites see the benefit of running a similar program and our membership continues to grow. In 2009 we welcomed "There's a Heifer in Your Tank" School at the U.



# DOLLARS AND CENTS

"I really enjoyed this field trip. I learned lots and will never forget this. It was fun and filled with laughter."

~ Student, Meyonohk School





## DOLLARS AND CENTS

### 2008-09 Program Budget

	2008-09 Projected	2008-09 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>		
Legislative Assembly of Alberta Program Fees	101,000 (18,000)	70,773.70 (20,050.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83,000</b>	<b>\$50,723.70</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Travel	6,000	2,968.31
Postage and Freight	1,000	0
Other Equipment/Rental Purchase	0	5,989.91
Other Labour and Services	68,000	44,427.10
Hosting	1,000	939.56
Office Administration	10,000	3,553.66
Advertising	15,000	12,895.16
Revenue - Program Fees	(18,000)	(20,050.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83,000</b>	<b>\$50,723.70</b>

# SCHOOL at the LEGISLATURE

Putting Life into Learning




## Notes:

- In-kind sponsorship value

★ \$24,000 **ACCESS**

★ \$20,060 **PRIORITY**  
PRINTING LTD.

★ \$20,000 **ckua**  
net

★ \$5,000 **VIA**   
VIA Rail Canada

★ \$1,200 

- ★ Figures cover fiscal year  
April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009

- School at the Legislature program  
year runs September 2008 to  
June 2009

(A+)





# APPENDICES

"It was a great learning experience! Thank you so much for making this such a memorable experience for my students."

~ Teacher, Jackson Heights School





## APPENDIX A: CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

### Social Studies

- Participate in a parliamentary debate
- Study the three levels of government
- Discover how young citizens can get involved

### Language Arts

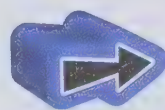
- Create personal journals
- Interview Legislative Assembly staff
- Prepare reports and presentations based on interviews

### Art

- Sketch aspects of the Legislature Building
- Create collages of the week's experiences

### Science

- Participate in nature walks
- Identify trees and vegetation on the Legislature Grounds







## Physical Education

- Take the Health Loop walk in the Legislature pedway
- Participate in scavenger hunts on the Legislature Grounds
- Skate in the winter months

## APPENDIX B: EVALUATION SUMMARY

### TEACHERS' COMMENTS

I am a first timer and really enjoyed the experience with my students. I learned along with them, and what a great variety of learning experiences they had! I hope to come back next year with a new group of students. Thanks for a great opportunity!

*Teacher, Muir Lake School*

It was a great learning experience! Thank you for all your help in making this such a memorable experience for my students!

*Teacher, Jackson Heights School*

### STUDENTS' COMMENTS

Thank you for organizing School at the Legislature for us. Without this we wouldn't be able to experience what it is like to be part of the government!

*Class, Malmo School*

I have to say that just entering the Legislature was an amazing chance. I would like to thank everyone for such an amazing week!

*Student, Jackson Heights School*

This week was the best ever, and it was a fun adventure walking through the Legislature and meeting lots of new people who work here. This week went by too fast!

*Student, Muir Lake School*

We had such a wonderful time, and it is one that I will never forget. Our days were exciting, and we learned so much. Not only did we watch a live debate, but we had the opportunity to do our own Mock Legislature. We met with many important people including the Speaker of the House and the Sergeant-at-Arms. My favourite part was sitting inside the Chamber where the MLA members sit. I was sad to see our week end because it was the most exciting day of all. We visited the Premier's office and the cabinet room. On behalf of the teacher, parents and students, we thank you for this fantastic experience.

*Student, Meyonohk School*

This is a great week! I wish that it could have continued until the end of next week. I will never look at parliament the same again.

*Student, Muir Lake School*

I learned that during debates they (MLAs) bang on their desks to show support. All people who work in the Legislature work for anyone even if they are for a different party.

*Student, Westbrook School*



## APPENDIX C: STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

Dear Priority Printing,  
(To whom it may concern)

Our class recently went to the legislature, and I LOVED it! This trip was fantastic! Thank-you very much! We couldn't have had the best experience with out you sponsoring us!

I deeply appreciate your generosity towards Clara Tyner School. I absolutely loved the neat little journals to write our interviews, experiences and notes in! They were a great deal of help! I still have mine and will continue to use it throughout my years in school.

Priority Printing has helped out Clara Tyner and many other schools that come to the School at the Legislature Program. I think the writing journals are the neatest things!

It was a great experience and tons of fun to be at School at the Legislature Program while the Federal Election was going on! It was awesome!

Four things I learned while at the legislature were;

#1 The Sergeant at Arms' name is Brian Hodgeson.

#2 The Mace is kept in a glass case on the third floor

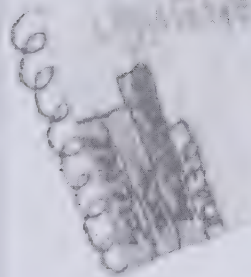
And then put in a steel vault at night.

#3 Most of the Rotunda is made out of sandstone and marble!!

#4 only the Sergeant at Arms is allowed to touch the mace! Not even the Queen can touch it! I'm sure that every other school that you sponsor appreciates this as much as I do! Thank you so much once again!

Sincerely,

Erika



## APPENDIX C: STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

October 22, 2008

Dear Access Television,

Going to the legislature was an A-M-A-Z-I-N-G experience. I would like to thank-you so much for sponsoring us for our recent visit to the legislature. Donations were gratefully appreciated for our week field trip for School at the legislature. It was the adventure of a lifetime. Maybe one day I will be a sponsor for School at the Legislature too!

I would also just like to mention that you (or Access Television) are going to be filming the Clara Tyner School, Grade 6 Class which includes me, doing a mock legislature at the legislature for the School at the Legislature website.

Once again, I am sincerely grateful for you sponsoring School at the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Talin



## APPENDIX C: STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

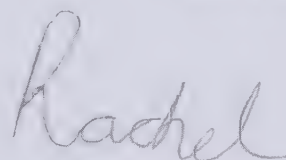
October 22, 2008

Dear CKUA,

The week before the federal election, our grade 6 class was able to participate in the School at the Legislature program. Thank you for making the School at the Legislature program possible. We had lots of fun so please know that your money was used well. We are very grateful to you for sponsoring us in this wonderful program, being one of only thirty-six classes to be able to participate in this program and being able to have souvenirs for free.

I would also like to thank you for taking the time to speak to us about the announcements in the announcements room. It was an awesome presentation. The room in the back, the one with the window with one side that looked like a mirror and one side as clear as glass, was a very interesting place to see it was amazing to be able to see things that many people are unable to see. This was a truly incredible experience, to be able to see, the sights of things I never knew about, to be out on the balcony I'd seen so many times, to see the premiers office, to see the palm trees donated by California and to see the actual chamber and sit in the actual set of an M.L.A. worth 1,200 dollars those are things that I learned about which were interesting to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel".

Rachel, Grade 6  
Clara Tyner School



## APPENDIX C: STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

### *Grade sixes get into a heated debate on compulsory voting*

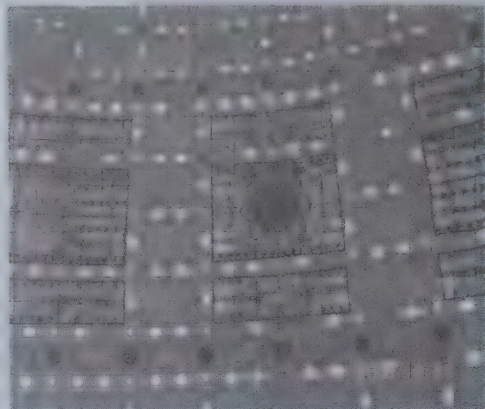
WP Journalists: Sarah Hales and Sky Nordmark

On October 28, 2008, the Windsor Park grade six students got into a heated debate on whether voting should be compulsory. If the bill were to be passed, all Albertans would be required to vote by law. Government Minister Alex stated "With the passing of this law, all Albertans would be assured of having a representative government."

The bill passed the First and Second Reading and made it to the Committee of the Whole where we debated the pros and cons of compulsory voting. The Speaker (Sarah) left Chambers and the Chair of Committees took her place. Some of the points the students made were that compulsory voting would go against our rights. But then again more people would vote and the Government would be represented better.

On the opposition side of the debate, opposition member Nassem says it forces them to make a decision and educated or uneducated on the future of our province.

We then made it to the third reading where we passed the bill to Royal Assent where the Lieutenant Governor (Jazzi) approved the bill, and the premier adjourned session.



### **Sitting in on session**

WPS Journalists: Alex Samoil and Nils Koch

Sitting in on session... when sitting you never know what is going to happen. Here's a small summary of session. So first we had to go through a metal detector for various reasons. Next, we entered the public seating gallery and took a seat. Then session began with the procession entering and we had to stand. Then the Speaker led the prayer. Next Mr. Paul Lorieau led the Canadian National Anthem. Next the Speaker asked everybody to be seated. After a few Introductions Windsor Park School was introduced. We stood up and got the warm welcome of the Legislative Assembly. Then we sat quietly and listened to the Ministerial Statements. After that we listened to Members Statements and Oral Question Period. Question period was the best time of session for us grade sixes.

Finally we snuck out of the public gallery. That was difficult because if the speaker had spoken while we were walking out we would've had to stop in our tracks.



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2,4,6,8...who do we appreciate?



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